

Cathy Maguire has led two delegations of business leaders to our nation's capitol to meet with United States Senators, Members of Congress, Cabinet Secretaries and senior staff of both the Clintons and Bush Administrations.

VICA has taken a leadership role on Social Security reform, small business development, aviation and airports, water quality and reliability, a patient's bill of rights and telecommunications issues under the keen leadership of Cathy Maguire.

As California faced an energy crisis this year, VICA played an important role in discussing solutions with the Administration as well as with our colleagues in Congress—working to ensure that California had reliable, affordable supplies of energy.

And while our nation mourned the losses of September 11, 2001, VICA and its Chairman have worked to minimize the impacts on Southern California's economy, convening the region's first Economic Impacts Summit and advocating in Washington on behalf of an economic stimulus for local businesses impacted by the tragic events.

Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues, please join us in honoring Cathy Maguire for her leadership and accomplishments as Chairman of the Valley Industry and Commerce Association.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, November 30, 2001, I was unable to cast my floor vote on roll call number 465, on Agreeing to the Conference Report for H.R. 2299, Transportation and Related Agencies Appropriations for FY 2002.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "aye" on roll call vote 465.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING DAVID PEOPLES

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, Whereas, David Peoples serves as a Police Officer in the state of Ohio; and

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has been named "Police Officer of the Month" by the National Law Enforcer's Memorial Fund for his unmatched service to his community; and;

Whereas, Mr. Peoples is helpful, honest, active, hardworking and dedicated to both his department and law enforcement; and,

Whereas, Mr. Peoples has received the "Exceptional Service Medal," the "Life Saving Medal" and the "Silver Torch" for his efforts in saving and protecting the citizens of Ohio;

Therefore, I ask that my colleagues join me in recognizing David Peoples for his commitment and dedication to making lives better in our area. I am honored to call him a constituent.

HOMELAND EMERGENCY RE- SPONSE OPERATIONS (HERO) ACT

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, five years ago, Tim Grimmond, the Police Chief of El Segundo, a small town in my district, came to me with a little problem called "public safety radio interoperability."

Basically, he explained, police departments are organized by city and county jurisdictions. Criminals are not.

And the radios carried by the police in El Segundo were not always compatible with the radios carried by the L.A. County sheriffs or police departments in neighboring towns like Redondo and Manhattan Beach.

As a result, law enforcement agencies pursuing a suspect couldn't talk to each other on the radio. They sometimes resorted to hand signals out car windows to communicate. Or they used a jerry-rigged system of radio-patching and multiple radios to make it work.

The problem was not with the equipment. The problem was the shortage of spectrum—the airwaves used for radio and TV.

Police and fire departments had not been allocated enough of the spectrum for their radios to be interoperable.

In response to Chief Grimmond's concerns, I introduced legislation that directed the FCC to license unused frequencies to public safety agencies. This bill became law.

The same year, Congress took another major step towards interoperability. It directed the FCC to allocate to public safety users 24 megahertz of spectrum licensed to analog television stations. Congress set a deadline of 2006 for that transition.

Unfortunately, that law also left a big loophole. It said the TV stations don't have to move to new spectrum until 85 percent of the household have a TV that can receive digital TV signals.

Currently, only 1 percent of homes in the U.S. meet that criteria.

So unless we act now, public safety agencies will *never* be able to use the spectrum that Congress promised them back in 1997.

That means * * * fire departments will continue to have problems talking at the scenes of major fires. Police and sheriff's departments chasing a suspect across city and county jurisdictions will still not be able to communicate by radio. Police officers on the beat will still worry about hitting a "dead spot" where their radios don't work because of interference or poor signal penetration.

The HERO Act that I and my colleagues, Rep. WELDON of PA, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MORAN of VA, Mr. MCINTYRE, BALLENGER, and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN are introducing here today eliminates that 85 percent threshold requirement—but only for channels 63, 64, 68 and 69, which the FCC allocated to public safety at Congress' direction in 1997.

Our bill directs the FCC to assign the frequencies Congress promised to public safety agencies *by the end of 2006*.

This legislation is supported virtually every public safety and municipal organization, including * * *.

The International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, and the Congressional Fire Services Institute; the International Association of Chiefs of Police and the Major County Sheriff's Association; the National League of Cities, the National Governors' Association and the National Association of Counties; the Association of Public-Safety Communications Officials-International (APCO) and the International Association of Arson Investigators.

Attached to this statement are letters of support for the legislation.

They all agree: Public safety needs this spectrum. And Congress should keep its commitment.

CONGRESSIONAL FIRE SERVICES

INSTITUTE,

Washington, DC, November 28, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN HARMAN: As Chair of the Congressional Fire Services Institute's National Advisory Committee, I extend to you the support of the committee for the Homeland Emergency Response Operations Network Act.

Composed of 40 national fire and emergency services organizations, the NAC provides counsel to CFSI on public safety issues. Among the organizations that serve on this committee are the International Association of Arson Investigators, International Association of Fire Chiefs, International Association of Fire Fighters, International Fire Service Training Association, International Society of Fire Service Instructors, National Fire Protection Association, National Volunteer Fire Council, and the North American Fire Training Directors. These are the associations that represent the interest of our 1.2 million first responders.

Following the release of the Public Safety Wireless Advisory Committee report in 1996, CFSI has worked aggressively in support of the report's recommendations. First and foremost is the set aside of 24 megahertz of broadcast spectrum for public safety use. This spectrum will address an immediate need of public safety, clearing the way for interoperable wireless communication systems.

Following the terrorists attacks on September 11th, the need for this spectrum has become a top priority for public safety. We can no longer afford to run the risk of responding to large-scale disasters without interoperable communication systems. Otherwise, we will jeopardize the lives of all first responders at the scene. Congress needs to remove the 85 percent exemption on penetration of digital television receivers and any other exemptions, and hold firm on the previously set 2006 deadline in the best interest of public safety!

I look forward to working with you, Congressman Curt Weldon and all other federal legislators who will offer their support for this legislation.

Sincerely,

DENNIS COMPTON,
Chair, National Advisory Committee.

ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC-SAFETY

COMMUNICATIONS

OFFICIALS INTERNATIONAL, INC.,

December 3, 2001.

Hon. JANE HARMAN,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HARMAN: On behalf of the Association of Public-Safety Communication Officials-International, Inc and its